



**BUTLER PTA Board Meeting** January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 7:00 pm  
Minutes taken by Lisa Listerman, Recording Secretary

**In attendance:** Rola Baghdad, Barbara Bulfoni, Karen Gutterman, Michael McAllister, Rose O'Neil, Kate Bowen, Kate Abruzzi, Katie Dunks, Lisa Listerman, Laura VanderHart, Sabrina Tan, Kate Weinstein, Sham Sokka, Kathleen Connelly

**Approval of Minutes** from last board meeting

Barbara moved to approve - Mike seconded - all approved

**Treasurer's Report/ Budget Update and scenarios**

We can stay with decision that we don't need a big Spring fundraising event.

Let's reward our community instead.

**In-school Enrichment Update:** what was done, what is next and budget update

Karen Gutterman reported

**Kindergarten** - went on apple picking trip and all went well. They will go to Davis Farmland in May. The price has risen. We usually ask \$5 for that trip, but to keep in budget we may need to ask for \$10. Could ask for \$9, but that's awkward.

Do we agree it is okay to ask families to contribute \$10? (PTA always pays for anyone who can't pay). No opposition - all were in favor.

**1st grade** - insect presentation on 2/26, weather presentation on some other date.

Meteorologist coming - they need video equipment.

Blue Hills trip needs to be scheduled.

Teachers will look into either Drumlin Farm or Butterfly Place (60-person limit). 2 buses would have to leave at different times. Teachers will have to work out the problems: 1.) it's a 45 min drive for a 1 hour field trip; and 2.) there are 87 kids in 1st grade.

Buses only hold 45 people, which means that all chaperones would have to drive themselves.

Teachers get the final say in how to proceed.

**2nd grade** - sled dog presentation on 3/22

African scale map is in May, unscheduled at this point

Habitat - May/ June

Back in June the teachers didn't want to add any more extracurricular activities.

**3rd grade - 3 events:**

1. trip to MIT (not funded by PTA). Mr. B organizes it. They head out last week in January. Different classes go on different days and take public transportation. They do not need anything from the PTA at this point.
2. Plimoth Plantation
3. Adaptation program came to school last year and they were going to do it again this year. Teachers recently Inquired about Aquarium. Looked into it and it would work with budget if they got rid of Adaptation program. They want to do the Aquarium's Adaptation program, which would be an additional \$7 dollars. With this extra program 3rd grade would go \$700 over budget.

Mr. B does a BASEP class and he donates money for Scholarship (based on a percentage of kids register). If needed he is proposing to use this money to cover the extra cost of the Aquarium field trip.

The total budget for in school enrichment (field trips and in school activities) is \$11.000 total.

Barbara made the point that last year there was a meeting with all the teachers (by grade) to plan the in school activities for this year (based on the budget and on the actual prices of the activities and transportation).

PTA will encourage all the teachers to make a clear decision by the end of this year and change as little as possible next year.

Karen agreed, suggesting clarity with limits re: budget moving forward.

Mike proposes not to mix money for the BASEP scholarships and in-school enrichment.

Mike proposed the vote is as follows:

Keep plan as it is - saying we can't afford Adaptations - no additional PTA funds provided.

OR

Agree to do more this year. Move it out of savings and add it to Grade 3 to allow them to do the programs they are requesting.

Does the PTA want to spend extra money on Adaptation program?

Discussion points were as follows:

(Please note that not all were in agreement on all points)

Sham - we don't know if we are going to hit the targets for expected income.

3rd grade pulled back on Statehouse visit to increase funds for Aquarium.

If we approve it this year, we should expect that it will be included and expected next year.

Discussion about older children having the ability to do more than Kindergarten/ early grades, but they have same budget.

This is the vote: Take \$560 from operating budget into Grade 3 enrichment fund for purpose of Adaptations program at the Aquarium.

Barbara seconded. All approved. Some members abstained from the vote.

Mike will communicate to teachers that this is a 1 year deal. He will also let Mr. B know the scholarship money will not be needed and they will be used for scholarships in the BASEP program.

Karen will evaluate how much the parent contribution will be for 3rd grade. We may need \$10 for Plimouth and \$10 for Aquarium (adding the adaptation program is \$7 extra dollars per kid).

[there are more than 69 kids, and with LABB kids it is 80 kids]

**4th grade** Lowell Mills in December

Feb - MOS comes to school to do geology program.

Sound program in April.

Didn't ask families for contribution for Lowel Mills field trip (forgot to remind teachers).

Families will be asked to contribute to MOS activities (sound and rock and minerals presentations) instead of field trip, to stay in budget.

**BASEP** - Kate Abruzzi reporting

Registration is in full force right now: 253 registrations for 20 classes. Registration closes tomorrow night at 8p.

21 individual students are asking for scholarship money. Students usually get full or half the class paid for. Principal McAllister will evaluate the requests based on free/reduced lunch and on BASEP policies (only one class per student per session).

We have \$2500 set aside in the budget from previous fall. We are hoping to have teacher's contributions, too (Mr. B and Mr. Chiu usually contribute \$3-400/ piece, and another instructor who already donated last year).

Some classes haven't met requirements yet.

There are 21 kids requesting Scholarship - this is double what we have ever have. We may not be able to meet our scholarship demands for the first time.

Barbara suggested PTA move some money to cover the cost of these Scholarships.

Question: Are we willing to approve an additional \$500 to cover BASEP scholarship needs?

Barbara moves to approve that BASEP can use \$500 more, if needed, to cover scholarship needs.

(this is on top of \$2500 set aside from the fall session)

Laura seconded. All approved. No one opposed.

PTA would need to approve acceptance of the gift, as well as some additional PTA funds.

We are projected to end the year with approx. \$26,000 in bank.

**All school assembly** - Rola Baghdady reported

The Crocodile River Music is on Friday May 13: African drumming assembly

Cost is \$2500, which is higher this year than in the past. They gave us a scholarship of the amount of \$1250. We paid a deposit of \$500 and we need to pay \$750 the day of the event. Every grade will have its own 30 minutes workshop. And at the end we will have a whole school assembly.

It should be great event!

### **Idling Awareness project for Fall 2016** - Kate Bowen reported

This issue came up at Safe Routes to School (SRTS) meeting, discussing the effects of idling your car on energy usage and environmental air quality.

We think there are a lot of idling cars at pick-up time, especially on Sycamore St.

It is a law not to idle near a school!

There was a discussion as to best time of year to do this project. SRTS working group is looking to do this in September.

The PTA board discussed this as a good thing to do then and now, simply in weekly announcements.

Ideas to promote awareness of this project:

- We have a few signs and can give to DPW to install.

- Send reminders in newsletters.

- Mike will talk with teachers about how to involve students, give them education.

- Pledge form - had high school students go to elementary school and high school students asked parents to sign on.

- We could have students remind bus drivers. Mike likes the idea and thinks it can be incorporated.

Vivergy - There is a start-up company who has a device which could measure air quality for free.

### **Energy competition** - reported by Kate Bowen

There is a behavioral awareness/ education campaign to power down, i.e. switching off lights and powering down equipment.

Mr. B has been doing this initiative with 3rd grade class last year.

Last year all schools in district did a 4-week competition, submitting our kilowatt hours of electricity usage.

For this year, the dates will be from 2/29 to 3/25. PTA will announce in the newsletter.

There is a new town employee (John Marzak) who deals with energy management and could come into classrooms as a speaker.

A goal outcome is to incorporate an energy saver role in each classroom. (Mike reported that many classrooms have already done so, but we would like to aim to have each classroom have this role).

**Upcoming PTA sponsored Events:**

Friday 1/29 - Ice Skating Night 7-8pm

Friday 2/05 - Library Night and Bake Sale 6:30-8:00pm

money from the Bake Sale goes to Library fund

**“Ask the Principal”** - Michael McAllister

Crossing guards - overseen by Police Department

Mike will mention some specific complaints

Additional Title 1 money due to number of students below poverty line was spent on resources: classroom materials, resource books, etc. Mike would love to add Math Specialist.

Questions about Modular classrooms: add modulars at high school, middle school, and 2 classes at Burbank. Modular classrooms could be at Burbank or Butler the he following year.

A modular unit is typically 2 classrooms, storage space, and bathrooms.

Superintendent has agreed to come to our next PTA mtg to discuss this issue.

Mike is presenting that because of particular demographic needs at Butler, we need to stay small and not get the modular classrooms. Part of the reason Butler is getting awards and doing as well as we are doing is because we have remained a small community.

High school was given approval for new building. That needs to move before any other additions are made in Belmont.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm**